

HOLY SPIRIT POWER

August 26th, 2018 - Holy Spirit Power

Part 15

Continuing on the topic of the Gift of Faith, today we'll study about walking in Divine Health thru the Gift of Faith.

Do you think it's God's will as a Christian that you can walk in divine health? Or do you believe that it's God's will to be sick, going from healing line to healing line, continuing with the confession of your sickness more than your confession of faith to be healed? Healing lines are full today of Christians, going year after year and not getting their healing. Where is your confession today in regards to divine health?

Divine healing and divine health is God's primary will for the church body. We're not undermining healing lines and that you get prayed for to be healed. That is part of God's will, it's a promise to the church and unbeliever. But divine health is God's primary will for his children.

3 John 2 says; *"Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers."* This is a scripture that you can pray daily over yourself, making it personal. There are few scriptures that relate to divine healing for the Christians, and for the most part if they are mentioned, it is dealing with sickness as a result of sin.

1 Corinthians 11:27-34 in the Amplified Bible states this about communion and health; *"So then whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in a way that is unworthy [of Him] will be guilty of [profaning and sinning against] the body and blood of the Lord. But a person must [prayerfully] examine himself [and his relationship to Christ], and only when he has done so should he eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks [without solemn reverence and heartfelt gratitude for the sacrifice of Christ], eats and drinks a judgment on himself if he does not recognize the body [of Christ]. That [careless and unworthy participation] is the reason why many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep [in death]. But if we evaluated and judged ourselves honestly [recognizing our shortcomings and correcting our behavior], we would not be judged. But when we [fall short and] are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined [by undergoing His correction] so that we will not be condemned [to eternal punishment] along with the world. So then, my brothers and sisters, when you come together to eat [the Lord's Supper], wait for one another [and see to it that no one is left out]. If anyone is too hungry [to wait], let him eat at home, so that you will not come together for judgment [on yourselves]. About the remaining matters [of which I was informed], I will take care of them when I come."*

This scripture should put the fear of God on Christians before partaking in communion because if it's done in an unworthy way by not repenting of sins, they'll bring damnation upon themselves. If you can't confess your sins to God and repent of sins, don't take communion because of the damnation of curses and sickness that will come upon you. Many believers are sick and dying in the church today for eating and drinking the cup of the Lord in an unworthy way and not properly discerning the Lord's body.

In **James 5:13-16**, the Apostle says this; *"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."*

This is an affirmative and conditional scripture that the Christian will be healed through the prayer of faith and their sins forgiven because they've been confessed. Examine your life today and if there is sickness in your

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body – you may need to repent of some sin or sins that have brought sickness on. In this scripture we have the promises of God’s healing, but it also states in verse 15-16 that the sickness could be a result of unconfessed sin.

Healing lines at church or evangelistic campaigns are full of Christians with health issues who repeatedly come for prayer for the same sickness and don’t receive their healing. Could this be a result of unconfessed sin, or not properly discerning the Lord’s Body in communion, or could it be simply that while confessing their need for a miracle, they remain committed to the confession of their sickness?

In the book of **Proverbs 18:20-21** it says; “*A man’s stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; From the produce of his lips he shall be filled. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*” Your confession can be of sickness and death or life and divine health.

Not all sickness is a result of blatant sin, some are caused by simply not keeping laws of good health, be it lack of rest, bad food habits, etc., and some simply have physically a sickly body that is a result of generational hand-me-downs from family. Your dad had it, grandpa had it, and now you have inherited sickness. Regardless of the weakness in body, you need to make your confession to be one of faith and healing and stop that generational curse from being passed on to your children. Exodus 20:5, 34:7; Numbers 14:18, Deuteronomy 5:9, and Jeremiah 32:18 are just some references to show that the sins or iniquities of the fathers are passed down to the third and fourth generation. You can sever those generational curses thru repentance so they don’t land on you or your children.

The Gift of Faith will take you beyond the curse of sickness, for that is exactly what it is as stated in [Deuteronomy 28:15-68](#) where it talks about sickness as a result of disobedience. It shows the blessings of obedience and the curses of disobedience.

Exodus 15:25-26 says; “*So he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them, and said, “If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you.”*”

Exodus 23:25-26 also says; “*So you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you. No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.”*”

You have to really think about this personally and observe in the lives of those around you that when these things are happening, you have to ask yourself or to others; where is there unconfessed sin? With the advance of science and medicine, people are way to easy to just brush it off as genetics, looking at it only as natural.

Another scripture in **Deuteronomy 7:15** says; “*And the Lord will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you.”*”

In **Psalms 105:37** we read regarding the people of Israel the following; “*He also brought them out with silver and gold, and there was none feeble among His tribes.”*”

Here is what Caleb, a military leader of Israel who was one of the spies that came back with a good and positive report, says in **Joshua 14:10-11**; “*And now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the Lord spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I*”

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am this day, eighty-five years old. As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in.”

Let’s look now at the life of the Apostle Paul. This following scripture about his thorn in the flesh ~ which many always say was sickness ~ is hotly debated and almost always becomes the crutch that sick Christians lean on to justify their sickness. But we’ll see otherwise.

Let’s read it in **2 Corinthians 12:7-10** where he says; “*And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*”

It’s obvious that it was not one infirmity only, but various things as delineated above. Many have Paul pictured as anemic, weak, sickly, with speak impediments, etc., but that is the farthest thing from the truth. Some say that this thorn in the flesh was sickness sent from God to keep Paul humble, this is not true. Remember, this was a messenger of satan who multi-tasked his attacks on this Apostle – everything was thrown at him.

Let’s hear from Matthew Henry where he says this;

“1. The apostle was pained with a thorn in the flesh, and buffeted with a messenger of Satan, 2 Cor. 12:7. We are much in the dark what this was, whether some great trouble or some great temptation. Some think it was an acute bodily pain or sickness; others think it was the indignities done him by the false apostles, and the opposition he met with from them, particularly on the account of his speech, which was contemptible. However this was, God often brings this good out of evil, that the reproaches of our enemies help to hide pride from us; and this is certain, that what the apostle calls a thorn in his flesh was for a time very grievous to him: but the thorns Christ wore for us, and with which he was crowned, sanctify and make easy all the thorns in the flesh we may at any time be afflicted with; for he suffered, being tempted, that he might be able to succour those that are tempted. Temptations to sin are most grievous thorns; they are messengers of Satan, to buffet us. Indeed it is a great grievance to a good man to be so much as tempted to sin.

2. The design of this was to keep the apostle humble: Lest he should be exalted above measure, 2 Cor. 12:7. Paul himself knew he had not yet attained, neither was already perfect; and yet he was in danger of being lifted up with pride. If God loves us, he will hide pride from us, and keep us from being exalted above measure; and spiritual burdens are ordered, to cure spiritual pride. This thorn in the flesh is said to be a messenger of Satan, which he did not send with a good design, but on the contrary, with ill intentions, to discourage the apostle (who had been so highly favoured of God) and hinder him in his work. But God designed this for good, and he overruled it for good, and made this messenger of Satan to be so far from being a hindrance that it was a help to the apostle.”

Paul was struck with blindness as a sinner on the road to Damascus but God healed him upon his conversion. We read this in **Acts 9:18**; “**Immediately** there fell from his eyes something like scales, and **he received his sight at once**; and he arose and was baptized.”

Upon conversion and confessing his sins, he was immediately healed. He didn’t continue with messed up eyesight as some may teach – he was healed! This is a powerful testimony that so many miss. As we read in the scriptures above where it says to confess your sins and you will be healed.

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Paul walked in divine health throughout his ministry, regardless of the physical hardships he endured through persecution. This is rarely taught and may sound ironic but is very true.

Let's read some scriptures about his hardships.

Acts 14:19-20 talks of his stoning and being left for dead. *“Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.”*

That sounds like the Gift of Faith and divine health that one could rise up the next day to continue in ministry.

Acts 28:3-6 talks about after his shipwreck and it says; *“But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand. So when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, “No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow to live.” But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. However, they were expecting that he would swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had looked for a long time and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.”*

The viper was to kill him but the Gift of Faith shows divine health. That's how we as Christians ought to walk. *“Many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord will deliver him from them all”*, according to **Psalms 34:19**.

Paul's life was not that of a sickly man that he is made out to be, but rather a good example of a Christian walking in divine health, always receiving supernatural strength when needed for whatever affliction that came his way in the ministry. The messengers of Satan will come to buffet the Christians – guaranteed. But in the midst of it, you're not to lay down and take it, going from prayer line to prayer line maintaining the confession that this is your lot in life. No, you can walk in divine health.

It is said that Paul labored more than all the rest of the Apostles. We read this in **1 Corinthians 15:10**; *“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”*

Paul talks about his affliction in ministry in **2 Corinthians 11:16-30** saying this; *“I repeat then, let no one think that I am foolish; but even if you do, at least accept me as foolish, so that I too may boast a little. What I say in this confident boasting, I say not as the Lord would [with His authority], but foolishly. Since many boast [of worldly things and brag] about human accomplishments, I will boast too. For you, being so wise, gladly tolerate and accept the foolish [like me]! For you tolerate it if anyone makes you his slave; or devours you and your possessions; or takes advantage of you; or acts presumptuously; or hits you in the face. To my shame, I must say, we have been too weak [in comparison to those pseudo-apostles who take advantage of you]. But in whatever anyone else dares to boast—I am speaking foolishly—I also dare to boast. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. Are they [self-proclaimed] servants of Christ?—I am speaking as if I were out of my mind—I am more so [for I exceed them]; with far more labors, with far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, and often in danger of death. Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent adrift on the sea; many times on journeys, [exposed to] danger from rivers, danger from bandits, danger from my own countrymen, danger from the Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger on the sea, danger among those posing as believers; in labor and hardship, often unable to sleep, in hunger and thirst, often [driven to] fasting [for lack of food], in cold and*

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exposure [without adequate clothing]. Besides those external things, there is the daily [inescapable] pressure of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I do not feel [his] weakness? Who is made to sin, and I am not on fire [with sorrow and concern]? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that reveal my weakness [the things by which I am made weak in the eyes of my opponents].” Amplified Bible

Most who received those kinds of lashes alone, didn't live. Paul received them five times. Add that to the rest of his afflictions. Yes, Paul suffered, probably had headaches, limped, back aches and the rest. But he received divine healing through the Gift of Faith, that didn't stop him ministering at all! What is stopping you today? What is trying to hinder you physically? What's the messenger of satan that is buffeting you today? What's kept you from going to church and preaching the gospel? Are you stuck at the healing line with your confession locked on your sickness and you can't get beyond it?

Take a good lesson from the Apostle Paul. He walked in divine health through the Gift of Faith. This does not sound like a sick man, going from pray line to prayer line confessing his need of a miracle while holding fast to the confession of his sickness.

If you look at the Apostle Paul with a natural mindset, he should have been dead, or if not dead, extremely sick and an invalid. But he had the Gift of Faith in operation to walk in divine health. In the midst of extreme violent persecution, Paul operated in a supernatural Gift of Faith that brought about divine health and healing for him, physically, emotionally and spiritually time and time again. He boasted in his buffeting.

Nowadays, no one boasts on their weaknesses. They boast of their strengths, education, achievements, awards or accolades ~ but not about weaknesses. Paul could boast about it because he was walking in divine health during his lifetime of ministry. Was he not physically infirmed at times? Yes. But he received healing – sometimes the very next day as when he was to be stoned to death! Was he bruised and looked like he was stoned? Probably. But he learned to walk in divine health through the Gift of Faith which healed him.

Many Christians need to straighten out the confession of their faith, get it lined up with the Word of God and stop confessing the blows that satan has dealt them. That may be physical, mental or spiritual – God's grace is sufficient for them or you. Go get prayed for in the prayer line, but don't go back there with the same prayer request, but rather learn how to walk in divine health through the Gift of Faith.

In closing today, it says in **Psalm 34:19**; *“Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.”* It's conclusive from looking at Apostle Paul today – there will be some afflictions in your life. Do you have to stay there? No. Grow in faith, grow in the Gift of Faith.

II Timothy 4:7-8 says; *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”*

Like Paul, this is what you should be able to say. The devil comes to steal, kill and to destroy but Jesus came to give life. Infirmity has robbed so many of their call and election, it has handicapped them in so many ways. That's not God's will. God's will is that you rise up, walk in divine health and the Gift of Faith.

Here is a great script from Bob Snook that we read, it's entitled “[Slides](#)”.